TOUR OF THE CONSERVATOR.

206. Mr. MacGregor's first move was to Nágargáli on the 11th November 1896, from where he marched to Bijápur, reaching it on the 19th. Here the Collector, the Commissioner and the Divisional Forest Officer were met. The departmental collection of Cassia bark and the preparation of boundary-stones were sanctioned for providing work for the people affected by the prevailing scarcity.

207. Leaving Bijápur on the 7th December, Mr. MacGregor encamped at Bágalkot and Bádámi. From Bádámi he proceeded direct to Nágargáli and from there to Haliyál on 19th, where he inspected the Divisional Office and the large timber depôt.

208. Turning north, for the Christmas holidays, to Belgaum, he left it on the 15th of January 1897 for Dhárwár, where the Divisional Office was examined. Thence he moved with the Divisional Officer to Bandur on the 21st, where Mr. H. Mitra, Extra Assistant Conservator in charge Working-Plans Party I was met.

209. From Bandur, marching down through Kalghatgi and Tadas, he went into Kánara. Reaching Yellápur on the 11th February, he examined there the Divisional Forest Office, Southern Division, Kánara.

210. He then proceeded *viâ* Lálguli, Bomanhulli and Kulgi to Potoli in the Northern Division, Kanára. Here, on the 28th of February, he met his death under circumstances which have been already reported to Government.

211. Mr. Murray, Divisional Forest Officer, Belgaum, who on hearing of the sad accident had come to Mr. MacGregor's camp to be of assistance to him, took charge of the current duties of the office and held it until Mr. T. B. Fry, Deputy Conservator, assumed charge on the 6th March at Belgaum.

212. On the 26th Mr. Fry left Belgaum and marching *viâ* Haliyál and Supa arrived at Kárwár on the 13th April. Here the Divisional Office, Western Division, Kánara, was examined.

213. From Kárwár, camping at Hattikeri, Agsur, Sunksál and Arbail he reached Yellápur on the 26th. On May 1st he arrived at Dhárwár and returned on the 11th to Belgaum for the monsoon. I received charge of the office from Mr. Fry on the 11th June 1897, after office hours.

GENERAL REMARKS.

214. The year has been on the whole the most unhappy one on record. Firstly the plague set in. This caused strict quarantine regulations everywhere and greaty hampered trade. Secondly there was the famine, the immediate result of which was high prices for food-grains resulting in a tightness of money that prevented the people from taking any interest in the timber-and bamboo-trade. It affected the sales at one and all the depôts of Kánara. To add to the above, cholera and fever were prevalent very severely hand in hand during a portion of the year in Kánara. The former visited even certain parts of the Collectorate where it had been unknown before. Want of water in the jungles through scanty rain-fall, and the two deadly diseases mentioned above prevented the Kánara contractors generally from carrying out their works properly, some failing entirely and some only partially.

215. As if the three above agencies were not enough to contend with, gangs of dacoits haunted the forests above ghát in Kánara.

216. One of these gangs attacked and robbed the cartmen and the Forest Guards who were taking from Hubli to Ittanbail, near Yellápur, the saw-mill-machinery, referred to in para. 195 above. Another broke into and robbed the forest-watch-houses at Komersikop and Sanwalli on the frontier of the Southern Division, Kanara, and a third looted the kit of the Assistant Conservator (Mr. D. A. Thomson) near Birchi in the Northern Division, Kánara.

217. Thus Kánara, besides sharing in the consequences of the plague and the famine with its sister Collectorates, Belgaum, Dhárwár and Bijápur, had to

contend against its own adversities, viz., disease and dacoities, and to crown all, the year was also marked by the sudden and sad death of the Conservator Mr. J. L. L. MacGregor, who was killed by a tiger in the Kánara forests. He was wounded by the animal on the 28th of February and succumbed to his injuries next day. He had held charge of the Circle for 10 years and during that time won a lasting respect from those who had the honour of serving under him, in whose minds the memory of his gentleness, courtesy and devotion to duty will ever remain fresh.

218. As a result of famine, a great deal of extra work was thrown upon the staffs in the Northern and Southern Divisions of Kánara, Dhárwár, Belgaum, and Bijápur by the special grass operations which they had to perform in addition to their own duties.

219. Due measures against the recurrence of illegal *Kumri* cultivation in Supa of the Northern Division, Kánara, were taken and fortunately there was no outbreak of it in the year. Under recent Government orders, the privilege of *Kumri* cultivation, which has long proved to be baneful to the forests, has been strictly confined to the original grantees. In this way, it is hoped that it will die out in the course of a few years and become a matter of ancient history.

220. The *soppu* depôt system (to provide garden proprietors with green leaves for manure on payment of fees) was, as already reported in para. 46 above, tried in certain selected parts of the Southern Division, Kánara, but with little success. A full trial of the system, however, has yet to be awaited and its success or otherwise will not be fully known until it has been fully introduced, correlatively with the settlement of *betta* assignments now in progress, in all such parts of Kánara as may be necessary.

221. The conduct of the subordinate establishment does not appear to have been as satisfactory as in the previous year. There were 37 dismissals amongst guards against 17.

222. The health of the establishment was, on the whole, very bad. One ranger, one forester, one clerk and 21 guards died, most of them of cholera and a few of fever.

223. The following officers are reported by Divisional Officers to have deserved special mention :—

On the Protective Staff.

Mr. G. L. Ugrankar ...	Range Forest Officer of	Haliyál.
„ Mangalore Krishnaráo...	Do.	Supa.
„ Mangesh Nágáppa ...	Do.	Yellápur.
„ Keshav Kásináth Deshpánde	Do.	Khánápur.
„ Hassan valad Mohidin ...	Do.	Belgaum.
„ Shankar Bápu Sáwant ...	Do.	Sangameshvar.
„ Mangesh Rangáppa ...	Do.	Siddápur.

224. The Working-Plans Officer speaks very highly of Mr. N. D. Sátárawála's untiring energy and gives special praise to Messrs. H. A. Nádkarni, D. D. Anantbhat, S. B. Bendigeri and K. E. Kotwál, while in the other working-plans party under Mr. Mitra, Messrs. G. C Sirurkar and R. A. Hemmadi are reported to have done excellent work.

225. In the office establishment the clerks specially mentioned are, Messrs. P. M. Murdeshwarkar; J. P. Souza; S. D. Salvi; F. X. Saldanha; V. S. Gáitonde; S. J. Loker; A. R. Trasi; S. H. Bhide and V. M. Varte; and no doubt Mr. MacGregor would have had a word of praise for many, if not all, of the clerks in his office.

W. G. BETHAM,

Acting Conservator of Forests,
Southern Circle.

Camp Bágalkot, Bijápur Districts, 7th December 1897.